

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Liquid Manure for Growing Flowers.

Few things, in the management of plants, are more overlooked than that of applying liquid manure. When the roots of plants are confined within a garden pot, the soil soon becomes exhausted; and if it be desired to grow the plant rapidly, it must be turned out of the pot and the exhausted soil shaken from the roots, and replaced with fresh earth, or recourse must be had to liquid manures.

Floriculturists cannot be aware of the advantages of applying manure in a liquid state or it would be more frequently used. I have found that all free flowering plants, such as petunias, geraniums, some of the calceolarias, balsams and cockscombs, are improved, and indeed I have not found any flowering plant whatever that has not been benefited by a greater or less quantity of this element. Many New Holland plants are increased in color by this treatment; the *Euphorbia*, *Diosma pinnatifida*, and many others besides not a few of the heaths, are benefited, when it is occasionally applied, as for instance once every seven or ten days. In watering plants with liquid manure, it will be observed that the soil after having been watered a few times, does not dry so soon as when watered with clean water, and this independent of the extra nutritious qualities left in the soil by the application of manure water; it is then a great point gained by whatever means effected, when plants, whether in pots or in the natural soil, can be cultivated without the necessity of frequent waterings.

As there is no more labor required in using manure water than in applying the same quantity of water without the mixture of manure, considering too, that its advantages must be obvious to all who give it a fair trial, it does seem somewhat unaccountable to see persons exerting a great amount of labor to accomplish small results. It must be regarded as so much labor misapplied, when, half the same labor and attention been bestowed, using at the same time liquid manure, far more satisfactory results would have been obtained.—*New York Herald*

Datura Fastuosa.

The Datura Fastuosa, which is cultivated on this place, is a very common plant. The flowers, which are of a



Thorn apple, is one of our showiest annual plants, being of a highly ornamental character both in flower and foliage. The flowers are large and trumpet-shaped, and have an agreeable perfume. The variety *Fastuosa* is half-hardy, and has large double white flowers. The roots should be taken up in the fall and packed away in sand in a dry cellar for the winter. In spring, plant out early. It grows three feet high. Every part of all the *Daturas* is poisonous. Where there are children the fruit should be picked off as fast as it forms, as it resembles somewhat a green apple. We are obliged to Mr. Renne, of Toronto, for the cut.

ANNUAL FLOWERS FOR WINTER.—Vick, in his *Floral Guide*, mentions the following cheap and easily raised annuals, for blooming in winter in pots, and which may be easily obtained by any one who may not be able to procure costly or rare greenhouse plants: Mignonette, balsam, *cobea scandens*, sweet alyssum, stocks, &c.; and any plants growing in the garden which have not bloomed, may be taken up and potted for winter.

AMERICAN VIOLETS.—I cannot understand why such a beautiful family of plants as the viola should be so shamefully neglected, or at any rate our native species, when they are so readily cultivated and so exceedingly desirable for early blooming. The one in question, *Viola cucullata*, is large and showy, although destitute of fragrance, but in my opinion is inferior to the very handsome Bird-foot violet—*V. pedata*. The charming little Arrow-leaved violet (*V. sagittata*) is interesting, even when destitute of flowers; yet the latter are by no means to be despised. The Downy Yellow violet, *V. pubescens* of our woods, is as handsome as an orchid, and were it not so common, would be eagerly sought after. Among white species the

little sweet violet, *V. blanda*, is well worthy of cultivation, and should have partial shade and moisture. The Primrose-leaved violet *V. primulaefolia*, which needs a similar situation to the last named, is somewhat inferior to it, but still pretty. *Viola striata* is a tall-growing species, with large creamy-white flowers. I merely select the above from the list of violets for the purpose of directing more attention to that class of plants; and I may add that I once saw in the garden of a noted botanist every known species and market variety of the viola, growing with an abandon which plainly indicated how much at home they were when under the charge of one who felt an interest in their growth.—*Cor. New York Tribune*.

PROPAGATION OF THE TREE PEONY.—Every cultivator of that magnificent flowering plant, the tree peony, knows that it grows slowly and winters badly, under ordinary modes of treatment. According to a writer in the *English Horticultural Cabinet*, it may be successfully raised by grafting on the herbaceous kinds. The operation is generally performed in August, by taking up roots of the herbaceous peony, cutting them horizontally, and taking off about one-third of their length. A triangular cut is then made in the side of the root, into which a scion of the tree peony is inserted, leaving only one bud. After securing them with matting, they are clayed up like ordinary grafts, and are potted, one in a pot, and plunged in a hotbed, where they soon unite and grow freely. In September they are moved to a cold frame, and in the ensuing spring are planted in the open ground, where they grow rapidly.

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Fruit List for Quebec, etc.

The following is a digest of the fruit list for the Province of Quebec, published by the Fruit Growers' Association of Abbotsford. It will be applicable to most of those parts of the Dominion where the winter is not modified by the presence of open bodies of water:

This Association, feeling the necessity of a published fruit list, issued, last January, 290 circular letters of inquiry to gather the varied experiences of the different parts of the Province. Replies were received from, or correspondence or discussion held with over one hundred, exclusive of residents of Abbotsford. The information is mostly from the Island of Montreal, from the Counties of Compton, Brome, Missisquoi, and Huntingdon, and the country lying between them, the clay flats excepted, from which there are no favorable reports.

Apples—Summer.

Two best varieties are:—1. Duchess of Oldenburg (most satisfactory); 2. Red Astrachan (pretty generally satisfactory). We also mention Early Harvest (usually quite short-lived); Tetofsky (promising to be valuable where Red Astrachan does not thrive); White Astrachan (Peach not described by Downing, very hardy and productive, and valuable for near market).

Apples—Fall.

Two best varieties are:—1. St. Lawrence 2. Alexander. King of the Pippins, Keswick Codlin, Kentish Pippin, and Hawthornden, also valuable.

Apples—Early Winter.

Fameuse first, without a rival. We also mention Late strawberry (though short-lived, valuable), Bourassa (not valuable as formerly).

Apples—Late Winter.

Many competitors, none first; choose from these next ones:—1. Golden Russett of Western New York (pretty hardy, and rather productive); 2. White Calville (long-lived and a heavy bearer, its fault being its color); 3. Canada Baldwin (good every way, except that the older trees sun-scaled); 4. Blue Pearmain (not generally productive); 5. Ben Davis (promising to be very valuable, though wanting in flavor); 6. Jonathan (trees 17 years planted have done well). Northern Spy (reports most contradictory, being planted for profit on exposed northern slopes, and in other and sheltered places; thoroughly condemned by nurserymen and orchardists); Pomme Grise (reports unsatisfactory as to bearing, and no longer saleable at extra prices); Ribston Pippin (not often reported favorably); Tolman's Sweet (fruit not saleable); Yellow Belle (earliest satisfactory); Baldwin's Rhode Island Greening; and Spitzenburgs (condemned by nurserymen and orchardists, having done well only in exceptional instances).

Apples for Profit.

The best we have in order of preference:—Huntingdon County reports Fameuse and Red Astrachan to be next Duchess or St. Lawrence. Lacolle and vicinity:—Fameuse first, unanimously; next, St. Lawrence, Red Astrachan, and possibly, Canada Baldwin. District of Bedford:—Fameuse or Red Astrachan, followed by some winter apple. Beloit:—Fameuse, unanimously. Abbotsford:—Fameuse, St. Lawrence, White Calville, Duchess, Alexander. Rougemont:—Red Astrachan, Fameuse, St. Lawrence, and Alexander. Ottawa Valley:—Fameuse and Duchess equal, Red Astrachan, St. Lawrence. Montreal:—Red Astrachan, Alexander, Fameuse, Duchess and Peach; Red Astrachan bringing \$2 per bushel, when grown in the neighboring orchards. Of winter apples, Golden Russett is reported, from Montreal, as less fruitful

than Fameuse, and lower priced, because of the competition from Ontario. In Huntingdon County it is being planted for profit; so also are Ben Davis and Jonathan, and even Northern Spy. In some parts, Winter Calville and Canada Baldwin are most thought of.

Apples—Hardiness.

Hardest kinds in order of preference:—(Tetofsky), Duchess, White Astrachan, and Peach; next to these, in alphabetical order, Alexander, Ben Davis, Fameuse, Red Astrachan, St. Lawrence. Tetofsky assumes this position partly from its hardiness in the N. Eastern and N. Western States.

Crabs.

Our statistics give us, in order of preference:—Montreal Beauty, Transcendent, Queen's Choice (very hardy in unfavorable localities), Red Siberian, Montreal Waxen (considered by some the most profitable for the Montreal market), Hyslop.

Pears.

We give a digest of the experience of a few in Montreal; therefore a local experience, to be received with great caution:—

Shelter by buildings, hedges, &c., almost necessary; trees must not be forced in nursery, nor in orchard until in bearing; none recommended for profit. The best five kinds are:—Flemish Beauty, Belle Lucrative, Glout Moreau, Lawrence, White Doyenne. These last four not in order of preference. The following also deserve special mention:—Beurre Diel (reliable), Bon Chretien (perhaps not as good as it used to be), Bartlett (not as hardy as some), St. Ghislain (very hardy), Napoleon, Unondaga, Louise Bonne de Jersey (reports contradictory as to its hardiness), Howell, Osage Beurre (very hardy), Osban's Summer, Rostzeer, King'sessing, Clapp's Favorite (promising to be very hardy).

Plums.

The best twelve varieties are:—Lombard, Pond's Seedling, Washington, Imperial Gage, Bleeker's Gage, Bradshaw, Coe's Golden Drop, Prince's Yellow Gage, Green Gage, Nota Bene (Corse's; blue, 1½ inches in diameter, finest flavored of Corse's seedlings), Dictator (Corse's; nearly as large, and shape of Yellow Egg, profitable), Admiral (Corse's; nearly size of Dictator, not equal in quality, but heavier bearer), Damson, Reine Claude de Bay, Yellow Egg, McLaughlin, Jefferson, Blue Gage, Smith's Orleans, and Purple Favorite have also done well. The above kinds have lived twelve or fifteen years, usually not much longer, and have produced good crops more or less frequently, according to variety and favorableness of situation, showing that we have not the species adapted to our climate. Blue Orleans, Pruneau, and Yellow Orleans; many thousand of these, especially the former, grown from suckers, planted in the soil, are doing well near Quebec. They sell in Montreal at from \$6 to \$14 per barrel, and should be tried in other parts of the Province.

Cherries.

The common kind reported under the names of Early Richmond, Kentish, &c., is that most grown. Morello and May Duke reported favorably in a number of instances. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society recommend Hartz Mountain and Leib.

Grapes.

Summer protection by fences, &c., and winter covering, both necessary. Best four kinds:—Hartford Prolific (for profit), Adirondack (most valuable, but needs a little nursing), Cravelling, Delaware. The following deserve special attention:—Concord (ripens thoroughly only in certain places), Emelan (trusted but two years, reports satisfactory), Rebecca (doing well in the hands of a few careful cultivators), Massasoit and Salom (reported favorably), Rogers No. 33 (at Philipsburg doing so well as to demand special attention).

Currants.

In Province of Quebec as elsewhere

Gooseberries.

The English varieties often mildew, yet some spots seem free from this trouble. We have seen Whitesmith, thirty years planted, which have never mildewed, still yielding good crops, lower branches lying upon the gravelly ground. Also, upon heavy clay, Crown Bobs and White Smiths, both bearing heavy crops, both trimmed and untrimmed. Houghton flourishes everywhere.

Raspberries.

Red.—Red Antwerp, most largely grown, though some prefer Franconia, Fallstaff or Knevels Giant, Clark (coming into favor, canes hardy). White.—Bunkle's Orange (the favorite, canes much harder than those to the south of us would suppose). Black.—Doohttle (perfectly hardy), Mammoth Cluster (hardy enough in soils not over rich).

Blackberry.

Kittatinny, Dorchester, and Lawton killed almost to the ground, even when covered by a snow drift; Early Wilson harder, but not satisfactory.

Strawberry.

For market, Wilson, one opinion to the contrary—one who has five acres at Quebec, on bituminous shale, prefers Jucunda and Burr's New Pine. For home use, Wilson and Triomphe de Gand.

(N. COTTON FISK.
JOHN M. FISK.
JOSEPH ROACH.
CHARLES GIBB, Corresponding Secretary.)